

4. **National Service Training Scheme.**—Under the National Service Training Scheme, 3,330 personnel undergo training each year (*see also* § 1, para. 6 above).

5. **Aircraft.**—Some of the aircraft which are at present being used in the Royal Australian Air Force are : bomber squadrons—Lincoln and Canberra ; fighter squadrons—Mustang, Vampire and Meteor ; transport squadrons—Dakota ; maritime reconnaissance squadrons—Lincoln and Neptune ; tactical reconnaissance—Mustang and Auster ; training—Tiger Moth, Wirraway, Mustang, Dakota, Lincoln, Beaufighter and Winjeel. Delivery to the R.A.A.F. of Avon Sabre aircraft commenced in September, 1954.

6. **Establishment.**—The Royal Australian Air Force establishment, as proposed, comprises—(a) a Home Defence Organization, (b) Task Force elements and (c) a Training Organization, consisting in all of approximately 16,450 personnel.

7. **Strength of Royal Australian Air Force.**—At 1st October, 1954 the strength of the Royal Australian Air Force was as follows :—Permanent Air Force, 14,882 ; Active Citizen Air Force, 745 ; Active Reserve, 1,569 and General Reserve, 19,724. In addition, 3,330 National Service Trainees undergo 154 days' training each year and are then transferred to the Reserve.

8. **Women's Royal Australian Air Force.**—At 1st October, 1954 the Women's Royal Australian Air Force had an establishment of 832, with an enlisted strength of 682. There are 27 musterings, excluding W.R.A.A.F.'s. in training. The entry age is 18 to 34 years inclusive. Parental consent must also accompany applications for those between the ages of 18 and 21 years. A good education is necessary. Applicants must be of British nationality, single, or a widow without dependants, and must be physically fit. Engagement period is four years with the option of re-enlistment for further periods of four years.

All trainee W.R.A.A.F.'s. undergo a month's initial training course at Point Cook, Victoria. On graduating they are posted for duty to R.A.A.F. units anywhere in Australia. Wherever possible, the Air Force endeavours to post W.R.A.A.F.'s. to R.A.A.F. units within their home State. This rule applies for those who wish to serve in their home State, but for W.R.A.A.F.'s. desirous of travel, they may indicate their preference and be posted to whichever State they desire.

§ 5. War Gratuities.

1. **1914–18 War.**—Reference is made in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (*see* No. 15, p. 930) to the bonus payable in accordance with the War Gratuity Acts of 1920 as a war service gratuity to soldiers and sailors who served in the 1914–18 War. Owing to limitations of space this information cannot be repeated, but it may be noted that the gratuity was paid in Treasury Bonds, maturing not later than 31st May, 1924, and bearing interest at 5½ per cent. In necessitous cases payment was made in cash when desired by the person entitled. The first gratuities were made available about the beginning of June, 1920. The total amount paid to 30th June, 1953 was £27,515,036 and bonds amounting to £11,780 had not been redeemed at that date.

2. **1939–45 War.**—Briefly the War Gratuity Act 1945–1947 provided for payment to members of the Forces of war gratuity (a) at the rate of £3 15s. per month of overseas service, subject to a qualifying period of 90 days continuous or 180 days in the aggregate in twelve months, and of certain subsequent periods in Australia, and (b) at the rate of 15s. per month of Australian service after 6th December, 1941, subject to a qualifying period of six months' service, other than that for which payment at the overseas rate was made. Except for those coming within certain specified categories, members who performed overseas qualifying service were paid a minimum of twelve months' gratuity at the overseas rate, irrespective of whether the full period of twelve months had been completed or not.

In cases of death due to war service either overseas or in Australia, where members of the family were totally dependent on the deceased member, a minimum payment equivalent to three years' gratuity calculated at the oversea gratuity rate could be made. In respect of all other cases of death, overseas and in Australia, due to war service, gratuity at the rate accruing to the member at the date of notification of his death was continued for a further seven months.

The period of entitlement to gratuity terminated at the date of discharge or on 30th June, 1947, whichever was the earlier. The bulk of the payments were made on 3rd March, 1951, but in certain circumstances payments were made at earlier dates. Compound interest was allowed at the rate of 3.25 per cent. per annum on the yearly credit balances. For greater detail of the provisions of the Act *see* Official Year Book No. 36, pp. 1073-4 or the Official Report prepared by the Central War Gratuity Board. This report, entitled "Report on the Administration of the War Gratuity Act 1945-47", was tabled in Parliament in December, 1953.

A Registrar of War Gratunities controls the register in which are kept the accounts of all persons entitled to war gratuity. Provision was made for financing the Act by appropriation from Consolidated Revenue Fund and by borrowing. The War Gratuity Appropriation Act 1948 created a trust account for the payment of gratuities. Particulars of the operations of this fund during the years 1949-50 to 1953-54 were as follows :—

WAR (1939-45) GRATUITY TRUST FUND.
(£'000.)

Particulars.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Balance brought forward ..	30,051	36,751	5,934	4,545	4,351
Receipts	9,943	30,630	Dr. 4,000
Expenditure	3,243	61,447	1,389	194	87
Balance carried forward ..	36,751	5,934	4,545	4,351	264

§ 6. Department of Defence Production.

1. **General.**—On 11th May, 1951 a Department of Defence Production and a Department of Supply were established by a decision of the Government. These Departments took over the functions previously undertaken by a joint Supply Department. The Department of Defence Production is responsible broadly for the production of munitions (including aircraft) required by the Services in government-operated factories and in industry under contract to the Government. It is also responsible for all those matters incidental to production, including the planning of production capacity to meet expected future Service requirements. References to previous operations of the various sections and establishments of the Department are given in Official Year Book No. 38, pp. 1200-9.

2. **Functions of the Department and Acts Administered.**—The functions of the Department of Defence Production, as defined in the Administrative Arrangements approved by the Governor-General, are :—

- (i) Manufacture, acquisition, provision and supply of munitions for the defence forces, that is to say, armaments, aircraft, arms, ammunition, weapons, machine tools, war chemicals, radar (and such other items as may be mutually agreed with the Department of Supply as falling within the definition of munitions), including the materials and plant necessary for the production of those things and all matters incidental thereto, including :—

The receipt from the Service Departments and other authorities or Departments, of orders and forecasts of requirements of munitions ; appropriate liaison with the Higher Defence Machinery Service Departments and the Department of Supply to deal with Service